



Sheffield TIMES



Community News for Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA SECOND GENERATION Vol. IV, Issue 5 May/June 2005

SHEFFIELD'S RESOURCES FOR GARDENS AND GARDENERS

The same dirt that makes Sheffield such a great place for farms makes it a good place for gardens. Ward's Nursery and Garden Center in Great Barrington is one of the largest nearby source of plants and garden supplies, and it grows some of its stock in Sheffield, on the former Bob Kelly's Farm on Hewins Street. And you can find many more resources to make your garden bloom right in town as well.

Campo de' Fiori, on Route 7 north of the town center, sells garden accessories amidst a splendid and creative garden. You can find out more about Barbara Bockbrader and Robin Norris and the fascinating company they've created on page 3.

Across Route 7 from Campo de' Fiori is the Corn Crib, long a favorite springtime source of flats of annuals and vegetables, pots of perennials and hanging plants, as well as fertilizers, soil and mulch.

The Farmers' Market of Sheffield brings seedlings and plants from half a dozen local farms to a convenient location, in Shef-



Campo De' Fiori on Route 7 in Sheffield sells garden accessories and artifacts from planters to lighting fixtures to bowls. See page 3.

field center on Fridays from 4 to 7pm. See page 11 for more on the Farmers' Market and vendors signed up for this season.

Down in Ashley Falls, Carlson Berkshire Nursery carries a full line of annuals, perennials, vegetables, shrubs and garden supplies. The nursery also does landscaping and installations. To get to Carlson

this season, you have to approach from Route 7 on the Canaan, CT, side—the bridge between it with Ashley Falls is closed for repairs.

Continued on page 3

TOWN ELECTIONS SET FOR MAY 9

For the first time in 40 years, both town committees are endorsing the same candidate. Julie Markham Hannum, running for the Board of Selectman for the first time, has gotten the approval of the Democratic and Republican Town Committees. "It's the first time since the '60s that both parties are supporting the same person," said Tony Gulotta, chair of the Republican Committee. "It's time for a change. Julie looks at both sides of an issue before she makes a decision. She's smart, and the right person for the job." Hannum is challenging incumbent Dick Kirchner.

Jason Ostrander, chair of the Democratic Town Committee concurred. "Julie has the skills and the vision to help guide Sheffield to the next stage. She is uniquely suited for a seat on the board."

The committees differ on the candidates for the Planning Board. The Democrats are endorsing Rene Wood, current chair. "Rene is doing an outstanding job," Os-

trander said. "Sheffield is facing so many challenges in the areas of growth and development, and the preservation of its rural character. Her dedication, leadership and her comprehensive understanding of the Master Plan will be essential during the next three years."

The Republican Committee is standing behind the challenger in the election, Jennifer Wilkinson. "Jennifer's concerns and goals are the same as ours," said Tony Gulotta. "She is worried about too much regulation, Sheffield's declining tax rolls and our children's ability to afford to live and work in Sheffield."

Two other candidates are running unopposed: Peter Rowntree for Library Trustee and current Town Moderator Bruce Person for re-election.

Both town committees urge all residents to vote in the coming election. "Everyone's vote is important," reminds Jason Ostrander. "Come out to vote on May 9."

—Nancy Kriegel

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MILESTONES

Richard Atwood Brooks, 81, was trained at the Merchant Marine Academy and served aboard sealift vessels during World War II. He co-founded Stadium Systems Inc., a nationally recognized reconditioner of athletic equipment, in Sheffield with Arthur Schopp. He helped develop innovative reconditioning techniques and served as president of Stadium Systems from 1977 until his retirement in 1990. The company relocated to Canaan in 1953. In addition to being a member of the first Sheffield Planning Board, he was very

active in community activities in Ashley Falls. See p. 20 for more details.

Anthony Gulotta, 87, moved to Sheffield and opened his first barber shop in Ashley Falls in 1932, he ran the shop for 10 years until entering the service where he served as a tracking radar operator in World War II. He ran Gulotta Brothers' Barber shop with his late brother, Leonard, from 1969 to 1988 and was a long-time constable and a special police officer, as well as being very involved with Our Lady of the Valley

church.. He was also a member of the Mt. Everett Knights of Columbus Council 513 and of American Legion Post 340.

Walter "Bud" Hewins Jr., 74, was born in Sheffield in 1931 and was raised on Riverside Farm which the family has owned and operated since 1837. He graduated from Sheffield High School and worked for Conklin Limestone and on the family farm, helping to operate W.D. Hewins Lumber Mill, the dairy farm, cider mill, tree farming and ice harvesting. After retiring from the construction company in 1997, he continued to operate Riverside Farm Pool Water Co., finally retiring in 2003.



Family and friends gathered with the Sheffield Tree Project at the Library to plant a disease-resistant elm in memory of Cecil Bartholomew as part of Arbor Day events.

Sheffield TIMES

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Sheffield & Ashley Falls, MA

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LOCAL HEROES

Ed and Nancy Knapp want to say a big thank you to the three EMT's—Peter, Ron and Joan—and the six or seven firemen who came to their aid at 2:30am on a very cold January morning. Nancy had passed out from low blood sugar. When she fell off the bed, she hit her head on the desk and onto the floor. When Ed found her, he called 911. Pete and Ron sat her up to give her glucose to bring her out of the low sugar state and found she had cut her eye on the desk and had bled a lot. They had to call the firemen to help get Nancy down the stairs to the ambulance. Ed would also like to thank the people at the ER room at Fairview Hospital. Nine stitches later in the eyelid and they were back home by 6am. Thank you all.

—Ed Knapp

THANK YOU!

To everyone who contributed
since the last issue to help keep
the *Sheffield Times* going. To
anyone we missed, we'll get you
into the next issue.

Pamela Bloodworth
John and Elizabeth Fontaine
Ruth Gillette
Antonio and Marian Malnati
Andrea and Christopher Nye
Claire Overlander
Deborah Reich and Amos Cader
Loet and Edith Velmans
David and Barbara West

Also in Ashley Falls is Jeffrey Steele's Ashley Falls Nursery, on Pike Rd. West just off Route 7A. Display gardens on the grounds showcase hosta, herbs, woodland plants, boxwood, vegetables and other plant combinations, many of them unusual varieties. Propagations from the gardens and other bulbs, perennials, trees and shrubs are for sale in the nursery. The nursery and gardens, open Thursdays 12-5 and Saturday and Sunday 9-5, are an adjunct to Steele's landscaping design and consultation business. While he works on projects of all sizes, including large commercial installations, most of his work is with residential gardens small and large. His designs tend toward the traditional or historical. You can see one of them in the geometric garden around the bell behind the Old Stone Store in Sheffield center.

Webster Ingersoll, on Route 7 in the

north part of town, describes itself as a "design-build landscaping firm" and specialized in the installation of sustainable, low-maintenance landscapes with a focus on native plants. It installs patios, walkways, and walls of native stone. One of its teams installs and maintains perennial gardens and another offers complete tree service, with several certified arborists on staff. While the firm has many commercial and institutional clients—it did the restoration landscaping for The Mount, the Edith Wharton estate in Lenox and is about to plant its "Flower Garden"—most of the company's work is done for homeowners.

Tomich Landscape Design and Construction, on Bear's Den Rd., offers a full range of design and installation services, from terraces, plantings and walkways to driveways and even siting a home. It works with clients to find out the customer's likes

and dislikes, which lets the company's designers make the wisest choices in preparing a design.

Hyatt Tree Company, on Bow Wow Rd., undertakes all aspects of landscaping and tree care. Despite the name, the company does more landscaping than tree work these days. Keith Hyatt and his staff specialize in designs that take what's on the land and sculpt the earth and the trees and shrubs already there. With judicious additions, he creates designs that enhance the land and the sense of natural beauty. With a full array of specialized equipment, the company installs diverse plant materials, including large specimen trees, as well as walkways, patios and walls.

And look for the many other local nurseries and growers along the back roads of Sheffield and Ashley Falls!

—Andrea Scott

CLOSEUP ON CAMPO DE' FIORI

Sheffield is home to a highly acclaimed international retail and wholesale home and garden store, Campo de' Fiori, on Route 7 at the north end of town. Among many citations, it was highlighted in the November/December 2004 issue of *Garden Design* as one of America's "25 Great Garden Shops."

Campo de' Fiori is filled with functional artifacts from planters to lighting fixtures to bowls. While the business is primarily a wholesale operation, the store provides a retail outlet for a wide array of plants and house and garden artifacts. Most of these pieces, made of bronze, copper, wire, iron, pottery, stone and wood, are original designs, the result of close collaboration with the artisans at Campo de' Fiori's warehouse in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.

Campo de' Fiori supplies plants and artifacts to local landscapers—and goods to stores across the U.S., Europe and the Far East, as well as to catalogs like Sundance, Smith & Hawkins and Ballard Designs. Its merchandise is marketed at trade shows and covered by industry representatives, but the Sheffield store allows customers to go directly to the source.

Barbara Bockbrader, co-founder of Campo de' Fiori, began her career as a horticulturist and plantswoman, growing flowers for the Old Mill Restaurant

in South Egremont at the request of its owner, Terry Moore. Soon after, she was supplying flowers and arrangements, fresh and dried, for weddings, special events and establishments such as Blantyre in Lenox. All the while, she gained a reputation for a very green thumb and adventurous aesthetics.

Enter her husband and partner-to-be, Robin Norris, who joined her in founding Campo de' Fiori. They had outgrown their home gardens in Alford and decided to make the big step up and out of the "cottage industry" classification. As Barbara recalled, they chose Sheffield because it is ideally located to serve the Massachusetts communities to the north as well as towns in northwest Connecticut. It also allows easy truck access via Route 7. They found four acres next to a hay field just inside the Sheffield town line.

As their catalog recounts, "Between [Robin's] classical eye for design and Barbara's sensuous planning, something happened—seeds were sown and from them Campo de' Fiori came to life." Robin was resolute "not to create a large metal warehouse." With the help of Bob Fleury, the architect from Mill River, and local contractor Lawrence Coons, they embarked on creating Campo de' Fiori's attractive, stick-built home in 1996.

The store is located next to the Appalachian Trail. Barbara said, "Let's give

them something good to look at!" Both Barbara and Robin focus on blending their aesthetics with nature. The building, crowned by a large cupola and built with oversized windows to bring the outdoors in, is surrounded by inviting paths that lead visitors through elaborate gardens tended by Barbara. The sprawling porches display dramatic plants of all sizes and shapes in twig, wooden and iron containers.

Twice a year, on Memorial and Columbus Day weekends, Campo de' Fiori sells seconds at a tent sale on the grounds held in conjunction with Tasha and Jack Polizzi of T.P. Saddleblanket in Great Barrington and Necati, a Turkish rug dealer.

Barbara is active in civic affairs. She took over the Great Barrington Rudolf Steiner School gardens where their children, Rupert (13) and Camilla (9), attend. She runs spring workshops on edging, mulching, raking and pruning for students. Barbara also is a corporate member of the Berkshire Botanical Gardens.

While neither Barbara nor Robin have a business background, they have succeeded in building a business through persistence and a standard of excellence that centers on their own, definite aesthetic. The store is at 1815 N. Main St., 413-528-1857.

—Sharon Gregory

SHEFFIELD GRANGE: MORE THAN 100 YEARS OF RURAL TRADITION

You've probably passed the Sheffield Grange north of the center of town hundreds of times. Perhaps all you know about it is that a dance happens there once a month and it's currently the home of the Presbyterian Church. The white clapboard building is home to an organization that embodies a rich rural heritage that continues in Sheffield to this day.

Officially known as the "Order of Patrons of Husbandry," the Grange is a national fraternal organization founded in 1867 as a grass-roots effort to organize farmers across the country to promote and lobby for agricultural interests as a result of the state of affairs following the Civil War. The issues of the day were the electrification of rural America, and improved mail delivery through the Rural Free Delivery service.

These were vital issues to rural America, including Sheffield, at the turn of the 20th century. This author's parents and grandparents did not have electricity or running water on their family farm on Brush Hill (now Home Rd.) until the 1930s, though both were common in the center of town. Our mailing address only changed from an R.F.D. box number when the 911 house-numbering system went into place in the 1990s.

The Grange founders also recognized the plight of women after the Civil War, and thus the Grange also became a family organization, the first of its kind to allow women and children (over the age of 14) an equal voice. Years before women had the right to vote, it was theoretically possible for a Grange woman to write legislation that would be supported by the local, regional, state, and national Granges and forwarded to Congress for action. The same holds today for young people over the age of 14!

The National Grange Headquarters are just blocks away from our nation's Capitol and the Grange continues its legislative activity. Over the years, the organization also evolved into a community service, social, and literary organization.

The Grange founders were Masons, and so there is common ritual for opening and closing meetings, initiation ceremonies for new members, and for conducting business. Much of the formal Grange initiation ritual is based upon the teachings of nature and agriculture, and has timeless meaning: "Obstacles are but opportunities to test one's abilities." Business meeting ritual has been loosened in recent years, to make it easier for non-members to attend programs.

The Sheffield Grange organizes

Sheffield Grange #224 (meaning the 224th local, or "subordinate," Grange organized in Massachusetts) was founded on October 8, 1900 with 25 members. The first meetings were held in what was then called the Grand Army of the Republic rooms (the top floor) of the Sheffield Town Hall. L. H. Boardman was an early Master.

Farmers' days were often long and did not usually conclude at a particular time, but rather when a very busy day's work was done. On Sept. 3, 1901, Grange minutes noted that "Brother R. M. Candee thought that we must do something to induce our members to attend the meetings." The Worthy Steward, another officer, suggested "that we begin on time." On Feb. 4, 1902, it was



Since its dedication in 1930, this building on Route 7 has been home to the Sheffield Grange.

observed that the pace of a farmer's life had changed: "Formerly the farmer spent a social evening with his neighbors, those of the present day do not have time."

Blanche Bennett and Betty LeGeyt's research on Grange history in 1975 concluded that Grange programs in the early years "seemed to consist of topics mainly about farming: how to raise animals, a garden, flower beds, producing milk, butter, eggs, etc. Also schools, insurance, rising cost of feed for animals, use of equipment on the farm, obtaining hired help, how to do house work, canning, pickling, and short cuts in cleaning."

There were however, some other topics scattered between 1910 and 1918 that likely produced lively dialogue. For example:

"What do you think of the farmer's wife who declared that if she had to do it all over again she wouldn't marry a farmer?" (1910).

"Is the high cost of living today due to an extravagant administration?" (1911).

And "Is it desirable for a young man to run into debt for a farm for the present prices of farm products?" (1918).

In 1912, the Sheffield Grange discussed surrendering its charter and disbanding. It was voted the Grange continue in its work and try to improve. Also in 1912, Brother E. Frank West became the Master and "Mother" West was at his side helping to promote and build the Grange.

The Grange builds its hall

By 1922, it became the desire of the Grange to have a new hall. Ground for the present building was broken in 1929, with \$6,500 raised, mostly by Grange dances. At the time, the Grange was the social center of town with dances held every Saturday night. On May 18, 1930, the new hall was dedicated with nearly 300 Grangers and friends present.

Minnie Markham was serving as Master when the Sheffield Grange celebrated both its 50th and 75th anniversaries in 1950 and 1975. Minnie fondly referred to her Grange friends as "the salt of the Earth."

In 1968 the Grange started entering exhibits at Great Barrington, Cummington and Hancock Fairs with excellent results through the fine work of the Fair Committee. Vera Conklin, Gertrude LeGeyt and Blanche Bennett usually oversaw the



Betty LeGeyt and Alicia Brazie present dictionaries to students in Carol Ide's third grade class at Undermountain Elementary School as part of the Grange's "Words for Thirds" program.

flower, vegetable, baked goods and handwork displays with many members contributing to the efforts. Betty LeGeyt frequently developed the exhibit themes and artwork, and Bill Bennett and Bill Meyers were the handymen who rigged the lights and set the backdrop for the booth. Later on, Grange "youngsters", Harry Conklin, Julie Markham (Hannum), Susan LeGeyt (VanDeusen) and others assisted with the booth set-up. Many of the Sheffield Grange members have won awards at the state and national levels for their needlework and craftsmanship.

The Grange has always been a very community-minded organization. In addition to the dances in the 30s and 40s, the Grange dinners held in the 60s and early 70s were popular community fund-raising and social events with double sittings filled to capacity for many years. Additionally, the Grange continues to support worthy causes such as making homemade cookies for veterans each year, and donating to Heifer Project, CARE, American Cancer and Heart Associations and Deaf Awareness.

The Grange today

Over the last several years, the Grange building has been repainted, the upstairs hall floor was refinished in 1996, a new furnace installed in 1998, and the kitchen has been renovated. To supplement its income, the Grange continues to rent the hall for single events, and has served as home for several different churches and organizations over the years. Berkshire Children's Chorus was housed at the Grange for several years before moving to Dewey Hall last summer.

The Grange is supportive of the youth in the area. For many years, local 4-H clubs, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and other youth groups presented programs that were enjoyed by all and helped the young people develop confidence in public speaking. The Grange also sponsored its youth members to attend the Massachusetts State Grange Youth Leadership Training School, an annual summer camp that taught young people leadership and team-building skills, Grange history and ritual, and provided an opportunity to develop a network of friends across the state. This author even met her future husband while serving on a state Grange committee 25 years ago, and the same is true for other couples around the state!

The Sheffield Grange currently supports a scholarship for a graduating Mt. Everett Regional High School senior. A new National Grange initiative is called "Words for Thirds" in which the Grange donates new dictionaries to children in the third grade. The Sheffield Grange participated in this pro-

gram by recently presenting each child in the five third grade classes at Undermountain and New Marlborough Elementary Schools with a dictionary that was personalized with the child's name on a book plaque placed inside the front cover. Sheffield Grange plans to make this an annual event so that upcoming third graders will be supported in their education. At a recent meeting, members greatly enjoyed reading the thank-you letters that they received from each of the children.

Despite its rich history, the Sheffield Grange is a struggling organization. Membership and participation have waned over the years with the creation of many other social and community service groups and as families have been drawn to attend their children's many activities and athletic events. Occasionally there is talk once again of the Grange surrendering its charter to the State Grange, but for the time being, its dedicated core of members continue to meet on most first and third Tuesday evenings at the Grange Hall.

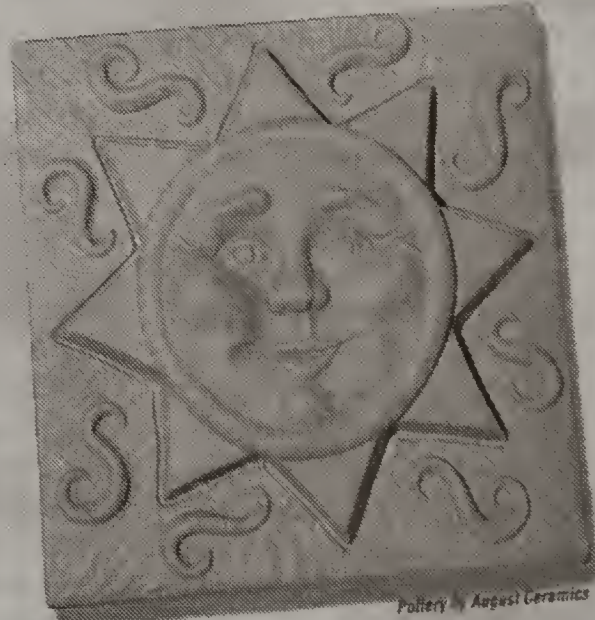
For more information about the Sheffield Grange, you can contact Alicia Brazie, the current Master and a resident of New Marlborough, at 229-2555. Grange membership is open to all 14 and over who complete an application form and attend a brief initiation ceremony. Annual dues are \$20 per year.

—Julie Markham Hannum

Information for this article came from a Grange history received from Elsie West that was previously written by Blanche Bennett and Betty LeGeyt, from conversations with members and personal recollection. Details of National Grange history are from *People, Pride and Progress: 125 Years of the Grange in America* by David H. Howard (1992). Many thanks to Elsie West, Betty LeGeyt, and Blanche Bennett for their contributions to the Sheffield Grange history.

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'GRACIOUS LIVING DAY' HONORS LATE HEAD OF BERKSHIRE SCHOOL

On April 8, the students and faculty of Berkshire School fanned out across Berkshire County to observe the school's first Gracious Living Day. The event, which stresses community service, will be held annually in observance of the April 9 birthday of late head of school Larry Piatelli, who died in October 2003. The concept of gracious living was the hallmark of Piatelli's brief tenure at the college preparatory school.

Students worked at several venues in the school's hometown of Sheffield: washing trucks at the fire station, stocking shelves at the Sheffield Food Program, sorting books at the Bushnell-Sage Library and picking up litter along Undermountain Rd. Here are reports on two of the efforts.

Stocking the shelves

Six students piled into my van to deliver food to the Sheffield Food Program. The first order of the day was to pick up the food that had been donated by the Berkshire School community. At first, it looked as if the group would have to make two trips to get all the food into the van, but using a bit of ingenuity and a lot of lap space, the students managed to squeeze it all in. The group was met by Marcia Brolli, a retired English teacher who is coordinator of the Food Program at the Old Parish Church. The program serves about 24 families; for four to six of those families, it is their primary source of food.

The students unloaded the food and helped stock the shelves. Curious about the program, the students asked questions as they worked. They learned that seven church members donate their time and effort to run the pantry, which provides food to those in need every Monday. Local people and local stores donate food and fresh produce. Other area churches also work with the Old Parish Church to make this operation a success.

When the students had finished, the shelves were packed with food, and the students had, in a small way, contributed to and become a part of the village of Sheffield. "It was a very eye-opening experience to realize how many people



Berkshire School students and the fire truck they washed as part of the school's recent community service day.

in a small town like Sheffield are in need of the bare necessities every day," noted sophomore Emily Russell of Queensbury, NY. Added Amy Bush, whose mother teaches math at Berkshire: "The church seems to love the community and the people within it. I love what they are doing and wish that more people would help them in the future. This summer I will volunteer at the church."

—Anna Romano

Romano is director of Berkshire's International Student Program.

Helping at the Fire Department

Six students and I traveled to the Sheffield Fire House to learn, laugh and clean as part of Gracious Living Day. First we made the mandatory stop at Gulotta's Mobil for a taste of downtown hospitality. After our snack, we toured the firehouse, where I explained the personal side of being a member of the Sheffield Hose Company #1. Two families in town (one of them mine) each have six male members currently serving as firefighters—12 of the department's 32 members.

Around the firehouse there are pictures, memorials, plaques and other reminders of past firefighters and their contributions to the service of Sheffield. I told a small story to the kids about Capt. Doug Blume, father of freshman Taryn Blume, who told me I was too far into a burning barn at the Wilkinson Excavation fire. I backed out 20 feet in time to watch a portion of the roof support beams collapse exactly where I had been

standing. We are a humble department, and Capt. Blume's calm attention to detail, which may have saved my life, went unrewarded.

Then we got to work. The kitchen and bathrooms were scrubbed. The dispatch center and meeting rooms were dusted, the floors vacuumed, and the furniture polished. The three fire trucks and one of our four-wheelers were driven outside and every floor was swept. Then we connected a 2½-inch line to the truck refill pump and washed down the outside driveway that leads to the fire house's wash bay. The kids had the opportunity to feel the pressure of a charged fire line, and they operated the nozzle adjusting it from a stream to a fog.

Then I answered some questions regarding the Jaws of Life, department membership qualifications and the type of calls that we get most frequently. After our discussions we washed the four-wheeler and the three trucks. Two of the students had a little trouble directing the stream of water from the hose onto the trucks so the washers did not come away dry, but the trucks sparkled in the sun when we were finished. We had soft drinks and came back to campus. I was home for five minutes when I found myself responding to a call for a brush fire on Route 41. When our trucks arrived on scene in great condition I was a proud member of the Berkshire community.

—Bill Gulotta

Sheffield native Gulotta is the Weil Chair of History at Berkshire School.

SENIOR CENTER CONSIDERS AMERICAN LEGION SITE

Following last fall's, "Senior Summit," a community discussion of how to expand or relocate Sheffield's Senior Center, the Board of Selectmen approved an adjunct committee of the Council on Aging to continue the work of finding a permanent home for senior activities. The committee, chaired by Pauline W. Schumann, includes Midge Priddle, Agnes Salvan, Richard Zimmerman, Lavina Gulotta, Doris Traub, Pete Traub, David West and Carl Schumann.

In March, the committee met with Selectman Janet Stanton, Town Administrator Robert Weitz and Bruce Philbrick, Commander of Sheffield's American Legion Post, to discuss the two locations that showed the most potential. One, a piece of property on Cook Ave. adjacent to the Town-owned

Pine Knoll behind the Bushell-Sage Library, needs more research to clarify ownership and permitted uses.

The other possibility, building an addition to the American Legion Hall in partnership with the town of Sheffield, shows much promise. At the meeting, Philbrick said that the "door is open" to discuss an arrangement that will be mutually beneficial to the Legion and the Town.

The land where the hall stands was long known as the Sheffield Military Parade Grounds. As long ago as the Revolutionary War, Sheffield's military gathered there. It was deeded to the Sheffield Post Home, Inc., a Massachusetts corporation, following authorization in a vote at the 1956 Town Meeting.

The Legion has opened its doors to community activities for many years.

Town meetings on the Master Plan were held at the hall last fall, and Town elections were held there not too long ago.

As the adjunct committee continues to work with the Selectmen and the Legion, there is a need for more community involvement. You can put your name in consideration for nomination to the Council On Aging, which meets once a month and works with the Senior Center staff to run the programs.

The Board of Selectmen selects council members soon after the Town Meeting in May, so now is the time to consider the contribution you could bring to this town board.

To volunteer to help bring a new senior activity center into reality, call Pauline W. Schumann, 229-8149 or email at bevarkil9@aol.com.

—Pauline W. Schumann

SHEFFIELD RESIDENTS GROW HAIR FOR GOOD CAUSE

"It's something I can do to help."

Seven words, but what an impact they have when put into action. These particular words are from local resident Tony Gulotta, and the help he is talking about came in the form of an eight-inch braid of his own hair.

Last year, despite some good-natured ribbing about becoming a hippie, Tony let his dark, wavy locks grow long. "I'm in the public eye," he said from behind a desk in his office above Gulotta Brothers Mobil Station, "and I had this big head of hair. But I wasn't the one suffering. The ones who feel self-conscious and miserable because they've lost their hair due to illness are the ones suffering."

When he found out there was something he could do to alleviate some of that distress, Tony went ahead and did it, despite the teasing. He is one of several local residents who have grown their hair for others. Some of them have donated their locks more than once. Men and women, teens and younger children, have offered their crowning glories to help those who've lost hair to chemotherapy treatments, burns, or alopecia areata, an autoimmune disease that attacks hair follicle cells.

Most remarkably, those facing cancer, chemo and hair loss themselves have donated their own hair to those going through the same anguish. Heather

Carey, another Sheffield resident, was diagnosed with neuroblastoma at the age of three. Her mother cut her own hair as well as Heather's and saved the locks in plastic zip-lock bags. "We knew Heather was going to lose her hair, and I thought perhaps someday our hair could be made into wigs. But Heather was so young that she didn't need one, really. Then I found out about Locks of Love [a wig-making organization that accepts hair or monetary donations]. When my second daughter, Lauren, decided to donate her hair, I sent along Heather's braid and mine, too."

Facing her own battle with chemo and eventual hair loss, Debbie Beham went to hairdresser Gretchen Brannen and had 10 inches of her own hair cut and sent to Wigs for Kids, another well-known organization. Inspired, Debbie's sister, Judy Ullrich, gave up nearly 24 inches of her trademark tresses to Wigs for Kids in support of her sister.

When Tony's hair reached the requisite length (a braid or ponytail needs to measure at least 8 to 10 inches), he, too, went to Gretchen, who cut it off for free. Gretchen knows all about the importance of self-perception—from both sides of the hairdresser's chair. She recently underwent chemotherapy herself. Not only will she cut donated hair at no cost, she will take it to the cancer

center at Bay State Hospital or mail it to the organization of your choice. She will also help anyone who has lost hair to chemotherapy or illness purchase a wig at cost (plus postage), and she will style it for free.

Illness has a way of bringing together people who need help with people who can help, and kindness has a way of circling back. If you want to donate either hair or money for wigs, here's how. Both Locks of Love and Wigs for Kids have websites (www.locksoflove.org; www.wigsforkids.org) or you can call or write to either at the following: Locks of Love, 2925 10th Avenue North, Suite 102, Lake Worth, FL 33461, 866-896-1588; Wigs for Kids, Executive Club Building, 21330 Center Ridge Road, Rocky River, Ohio 44116, 440-333-4433. The sites have names of participating salons that will cut hair to be donated for free.

—Pauline Clarke

Wanted:

Volunteer to pick up and distribute each issue of the *Sheffield Times*.

Contact P.O. Box 1339, Sheffield, MA 01257 or e-mail sheffieldtimes@hotmail.com.

THE SHEFFIELD GUIDE TO SURVIVING 'LE WEEKEND'

So it's spring, and while a young man's fancy may lightly turn to thoughts of love, the thoughts of many of my New Jersey friends are turning towards the Berkshires, contemplating how lovely it would be to head north on the Taconic and spend a weekend with us, in idyllic Sheffield, as the toad lilies push upward, the dogwood bursts into bloom and all the Berkshires are ablaze with life and spring.

Like many other people at our time of life, we have quite a few friends with whom we've spent some lovely evenings in New Jersey where we live during the week, having dinner and catching up. What I wasn't quite prepared for when we bought the house in Sheffield, however, was that these same friends would come and stay with us for days on end, with the most popular time being the weekend. It is, of course, my own fault, because I'm forever babbling about how fabulous the Berkshires are—a magical place, rejuvenating and energizing, a veritable fountain of youth. However, as I'm fond of reminding my husband, I currently work three jobs in New Jersey and until I can figure out a way to move to Sheffield permanently, I'm likely to go on doing this for the foreseeable future.

Which brings me to the dilemma. On the one hand I genuinely enjoy entertaining old friends and take great pleasure in stage-managing the country weekend so they'll go home on Sunday feeling that they've had a fabulous time. On the other, how do I get through the weekend without doing it with gritted teeth, feeling put upon as I drop yet another load of sheets and towels into the washing machine, and wash all the dishes by hand because this house doesn't have a dishwasher?

It's been a process of trial and error, but I think I'm finally close to breaking the code. If you're like me, and your friends are about to descend upon you, here are some suggestions:

Friday night

Your friends arrive, somewhat tired from the drive and from having worked all day. You, on the other hand, are tired for all the same reasons. My solution? Get there an hour or two earlier, fill the house with flowers and greet them with a glass or two of really good wine, which it doesn't hurt to sample ahead of time. Silk's has an excellent selection and we especially stock up on the Chilean burgundies.

If they're here in time, trot them over to the Farmer's Market where they'll salivate over the local produce, flowers and spectacular baked goods. Back home, to set the mood, you've made a New England Boiled Dinner a day or two earlier (it gets better with age), added a pre-mixed arugula salad and crusty French bread, started a blazing fire in the fireplace and lit candles all over the house. Add a dessert—Berkshire ice cream always goes over well—and before long, everyone will sink happily into bed after a quick walk beneath the glittering stars, which, as we know, shine brighter in Sheffield. Everyone sleeps better in the country.

Saturday morning

What you'll discover is that the friends who come to stay with you are very different from the same friends you've been having

dinner with for years. Two of our friends didn't rise and shine until nearly noon, making us fear that they had been asphyxiated during the night. That was slightly better than the friends who were up, showered and dressed by 6am and who greeted us brightly and expectantly as we blearily descended to make the morning tea.

So it's a good idea to set the breakfast table the night before and leave coffee and tea out ready to go. My lifesavers are Barb's homemade breads. I have a freezerful and these, together with her jams and some fruit, allow friends to help themselves. Alternatively, if we all happen to coincide at the breakfast table, I make pancakes with the delicious little blueberries picked last fall from the top of Mount Everett and smother these with the local maple syrup from the gallon I was lucky enough to win in the last Firehouse raffle.

However, no matter how much you enjoy your guests, you don't want to spend every waking minute with them, so you now offer them several alternatives. I've discovered that my friends fall into one of several categories:

- ♦ **The literary mavens.** These people are ecstatic to discover their proximity to the well-trodden paths of Edith Wharton, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville (not to mention W.E.B. Du Bois, Wendell Holmes, William Cullen Bryant, and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow). Give them a map of the area with the homesteads highlighted and they'll be off for the day. One professorial friend was in seventh heaven as he looked out of Melville's study window at the distant hump of Mount Greylock and dreamed of Moby Dick. The more ambitious may even jog up Monument Mountain and celebrate the historic Hawthorne/Melville meeting with a glass of champagne at the summit. For the really scholarly, the Berkshire Athenaeum in Pittsfield is the mother lode of American literature.

- ♦ **The outdoorsy types.** These friends relish Sheffield's proximity to the Appalachian Trail, and you can set them off with a bagful of power bars and a bottle of Gatorade to scale the heights of Mount Everett or wander blissfully by Bash Bish Falls. This category may overlap with the nature lovers/bird watchers. They're forecasting a resurgence of bluebirds in the Berkshires this spring, and nothing lifts the heart more than the sight of the pair scouting out our backyard nesting box as a future home. Suburban types are thrilled, too, by the sight of our local beaver, even though he looks like a muddy doormat as he happily does the Australian crawl on his way down Hubbard Brook behind the house. If they're truly lucky, the great blue heron will be perching where this same beaver has built a dam, ready to launch into ungainly but impressive flight when disturbed.

- ♦ **The history buffs.** Sheffield is awash in history. A good place to start is with a brisk walk through the center of town. You could even go with them on this one, pointing out the colonial and Greek Revival architecture, the fine churches and, of course, the Historical Society in the Dan Raymond House and the Old Stone Store. After that, they're on their own to go and see the site of Shays' Rebellion, where Daniel Shays led a revolt of tax-weary farmers. Also interesting is the Colonel John Ashley House,

where "The Sheffield Declaration" was drafted in 1773, stating to Great Britain that "Mankind in a State of Nature are equal, free and independent of each other." For those wishing to venture further afield, the Hancock Shaker Village in Pittsfield is always appealing.

Saturday night

With any luck, your friends will arrive home from their adventures bubbling over with all they have seen and done. You, having had the day to regroup, have set the scene again for dinner and a luxuriously relaxing evening. They will offer, of course, to take you out, but resist this opportunity because you're saving it for tomorrow's brunch. After all, you've zipped up to that existential supermarket, the Big Y, for their "Buy One, Get Nine Free" specials. A Roast Chicken goes over well here. In addition, if it's spring, you have the joy of serving your own asparagus—and if you haven't planted your own asparagus bed yet, you must vow to do it soon. Sheffield asparagus is divine.

The coups de grace, however, are the fabulous desserts from Guido's. You could have spent much of your day boiling the chestnuts for Chocolate Chestnut Mousse or using your blow torch on the crème brûlée. But why bother, when Guido's does it so much better? While accepting the compliments, you can inwardly congratulate yourself on not only having chosen a spot in the bosky Berkshires that is breathtakingly beautiful and rich in culture, but which also has truly excellent supermarkets.

Following dinner you extend a potpourri of offerings for the evening, which range from the delights of the Berkshire Choral Festival to the latest production at the Barrington Stage. If they

really insist, you can always trek up to Tanglewood, but it's nice to be able to stay in your own backyard.

Sunday morning

This is when you gratefully accept your friends' offer to take you out for brunch. I have a partiality for the Sunrise Diner, where the staff is unfailingly cheerful and the food good and honest. Or you can go all out and whip up your own excellent meal. A frittata is good here

Along about noon your guests will be making signs of getting ready to leave and, before long, they'll be loading their overnight bags into their car and you'll be standing at the edge of the driveway, waving them off before, yes, going back in to strip the beds and throw the sheets and towels into the washing machine. But you'll be feeling good about it, as I do. Our house is a house filled with memory and with what my husband calls, "happy ghosts." Our gift to our friends, like yours, is a weekend filled with warmth and comfort and in this, we are simply continuing the Sheffield tradition.

There are those in Sheffield who will remember Millie Smith with affection. Millie was one of 12 children of the Percy family who grew up in our house and her niece, Janet Martin, writing to me about those days, recalls with pleasure the family gatherings, the warmth and the love at the dinner table. She writes, "Many of my very best and happiest memories are of Grandmother's house in Sheffield." She adds, "If I could go back and live one day of my life over, I would choose one of those wonderful, fun-filled days at Gramma and Grampa Percys'. What wonderful memories!"

And that's the feeling I hope to re-create in our Sheffield house.

—Dr. Gillian Hettinger

RECIPES FOR A DELICIOUS WEEKEND

New England Boiled Dinner

Make this two days ahead and bring it up.

- 5 pounds of corned brisket of beef
- ½ bay leaf
- 6 whole peppercorns
- 4 large rutabagas (yellow turnips) peeled and sliced
- 6 carrots, scraped and left whole
- 6 parsnips, peeled and left whole
- 12 small onions, peeled
- 6 medium potatoes, peeled
- 1 head cabbage, cut in wedges.

Place the meat in a deep kettle, cover with water, add bay leaf and peppercorns. Bring water to boil, skim off fat, cover, reduce heat and simmer 3 hours. Add the vegetables and simmer until the meat and vegetables are tender, about 45 minutes longer. Place meat in the center of the platter and surround with the vegetables. Accompany with horseradish.

Poulet Roti

For the rub: 1 tbsp. chopped fresh rosemary, 3 minced cloves garlic, ¼ cup fresh lemon juice, 4 tbsp. unsalted butter, ½ tsp. cayenne pepper, pinch paprika, salt and pepper.

1 roasting chicken (3½ to 4 lb.), rinsed and patted dry, giblets removed

Whole fresh rosemary sprigs and thyme for garnish

Preheat oven to 425. To make the rub, in small bowl, mix chopped rosemary, garlic, lemon juice, butter, cayenne, paprika and salt and pepper to taste until all well incorporated. Taste and adjust seasoning.

Coat the chicken all over with the rub. Place, breast side up, on oiled rack in heavy roasting pan. Pour 1 cup of water into the pan to prevent burning of bottom. Roast the chicken, basting several times with pan juices, until golden brown, 45-50 minutes. Juices should run clear when thigh is pierced with a knife. Let rest for 10 minutes before carving. Serve on a bed of rosemary and thyme.

Chocolate Chestnut Mousse

- 2 pounds peeled chestnuts
- ¾ cup sugar
- 4 tbsp. cocoa
- 4 tbsp. Amaretto
- 16 oz. heavy cream

Put chestnuts in water to cover and simmer until tender. Drain, add sugar, cocoa and Amaretto. Process in a food processor until smooth and well combined. Beat heavy cream until stiff. Fold into chestnut puree. Divide among dessert glasses. Chill until mixture sets up. Serve with a dollop of whipped cream and chocolate shavings. Serves 10.

Note: Mousse can also be used as filling between multiple thin layers of pound cake and then drizzled with sweetened raspberry puree.

Potato and Leek Frittata

- 4 tbsp. butter
- 1 tbsp. oil
- 1 cup cooked peeled potatoes in ½-inch cubes
- ½ cup cooked leeks, sliced in thin rounds
- 1 tbsp. minced parsley
- ¼ cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese
- 5 eggs
- ½ cup heavy cream
- ¼ tsp salt
- ⅛ tsp freshly ground pepper

Heat 2 tbsp. of the butter and the oil in a skillet. Add the potatoes and leeks and cook until the potatoes are lightly browned. Put into a bowl, toss in the parsley and cheese and set aside. Combine the eggs, cream, salt and pepper, and add to the potatoes and leeks. Melt the remaining 2 tbsp. of butter in the skillet. Pour in the egg mixture and cook very slowly over low heat, pricking the top with a fork and lifting the bottom gently. Continue to cook until the bottom is brown and set.

NEWS FROM THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Newsletter debuts. If you want to find out about what's going on in the schools, you can now read the Eagle Feather, a newsletter published every two weeks. This impressive publication lists important dates and includes reports on the significant goings on from MCAS to concerts. Contact Linda Higgins for a copy. The news here comes from two recent issues.

Improvement plans. Berkshire Regional School District Superintendent Valerie Spriggs is leading the efforts of administrators and faculty to develop a comprehensive district improvement plan for fall 2006, a process mandated by the Department of Education. Spriggs is committed to using it to make sure that our students are better prepared for today's world. Committees are working in the areas of: personal education plans for all students, quarterly assessments, academic rigor, student government, technology, and public relations and partnerships.

Visitors. On March 16, Dr. Barbara Reed came to work with the faculty on the topic of Literacy and Learning. On March 22, the District hosted 30 participants for the Flying Cloud Institute's Berkshire Environmental Educators Conference. Representatives from the District included Scott Farrell, Asha Von Ruden, Carol Ide and Peggy Hendon Wilson. In May, the Educator Quality and Accountability Audit Team will visit, for which staff has spent an untold number of hours preparing over the last several months. It will involve interviews with school committee members and town officials.

Cultural opportunities. In addition to MCAS testing, April brought students the opportunity to be creative. The middle school EXPO on April 14 showcased four months of individual research projects by the students in both seventh and eighth grades. On the same day, the sixth graders created a living museum in the lobby and hallways of Undermountain to depict various aspects of ancient Egyptian culture. The fifth grades had quite a month. On April 6 the Boston Symphony Orchestra, a new collaborating partner for the



Odille Carpenter and Tommy Buchte sell the Culinary Arts Program's homemade soups at the Saturday Market.

District, hosted them in Boston for a classical concert at Symphony Hall. Later in the month they went off to a week of science explorations at Nature's Classroom.

The evening of May 14, a festive Madrigal feast will be held. This is a culmination of a year's work directed by choral music director Nancy Loder through the Creative Schools Program. While Loder worked with students on the songs, students have been working with Lucy Bardo to learn to play Renaissance music. Roger Reed has been teaching jestering and Christa Montano has led the dancers. Pamela Hardcastle has been advising on the decoration of the school which will be transformed for the Renaissance experience. Elaborate costumes are being made to showcase the performers. A feast prepared by the Culinary Arts students will be served while guests are entertained by performances by students and local musicians. Tickets are available—call 229-8734 extension 126.

Senior activities. The end is in sight for the senior class. Their prom is May 6 at Cranwell in Lenox, the last day of classes is May 18 and graduation ceremonies are May 28. The college acceptance letters have arrived and students are making plans for next year. Good luck to them all.

—Jane Burke

DEWEY HALL EVENTS

Father's Day Pancake Breakfast. The annual event will be held at Dewey Memorial Hall on Route 7, in the center of Sheffield, on Sunday, June 19, 8-11am. You can buy tickets at the Farmer's Market of Sheffield on June 10 and 17 or at the door. Proceeds benefit the Sheffield Friendly Union, the community organization that runs Dewey Hall.

Square dance. The Berkshire Children's Chorus and the Sheffield Friendly Union are sponsoring a square dance on June 25 at Dewey Memorial Hall, the first of many events the two organizations plan to co-sponsor. The evening will start at 6:30pm when dinner will be offered. Dancing will start at 7:30 with Cliff and Senta Brodeur calling the dances. Tickets are \$10 for the dance; dinner is extra. For more information or tickets, call 229-7907.

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5th FARMERS' MARKET OPENS MAY 6

May brings another season of the Farmers' Market of Sheffield, open Fridays from 4 to 7pm, rain or shine. The market runs from Mother's Day weekend to Columbus Day weekend.

Vendors sell fruits, vegetables, flowers, baked goods, syrup, meat, cheese, and many other locally grown or made products. The box below notes vendors who had confirmed their spaces as of press time.

Every week features a Young Farmers

Market Stand, and there's a special Kid's Day the second Friday of every month. The market hosts local community organizations and plans chef/cooking demonstrations and other entertainments. The Berkshire Globetrotter Jugglers, for instance, will be appearing on July 8.

The opening market features a Local Crafts Day, with another planned for August 5. On September 23 there will be a Zucchini Festival, and the Harvest Market finale will be on October 7.



The Young Farmers Table will be back this year at the Farmers' Market, Fridays 4-7pm in the parking lot at Old Parish Church in the center of Sheffield.

FARMERS' MARKET VENDORS AS OF PRESS TIME

Barb's Baked Goods: baked goods.

Berkshire Mountain Bakery: bread and baked goods.

David's Melons: melons, vegetables.

Dutch Desserts: baked goods.

Equinox Farm: flowers, lettuce and greens, vegetables.

Farm Girls Farm: produce.

Farm House Bakers: baked goods, dips, spreads.

Gould Farm: cheese, syrup, baked goods, granola, more.

High Country Farm: plants, produce, flowers, eggs, cheese

Moon In The Pond Farm: plants, produce, meat.

Ms. Shell's Bakery: chocolates, candy.

My Sisters' Garden: plants, flowers, vegetables, eggs.

Popovich Provisions: cheese.

Snow Farm: plants, flowers, vegetables, eggs, wool, pottery.

When Pigs Fly Farm: plants, vegetables, herbs, berries.

Wolfe Ridge Farm: produce, plants, eggs.

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YOUR COUNTRY HOME: FOUNDATIONS

First in an occasional series.

While house foundations are not one of the most glamorous home-related subjects, they are one of the most important. A foundation that's done well will give you peace of mind for many years; a badly done one can make your life miserable.

Whether you're building a house or living in an existing one, knowing something about foundations can only be helpful.

Our guide to the world of foundations is Lou Sartori, whose company, General Foundations, is in West Stockbridge. Lou has been in the business for 36 years and has done a great deal of work in the South County area, including in Sheffield.

"The foundation is the cheapest area in a house to build," says Lou. "The labor is the same for eight feet as for four feet." So the financial difference between a full basement and a limited-access four-foot crawl space is minimal.

There are three basic kinds of foundations used today. The most common is a poured foundation, made of solid concrete. Concrete is cement plus sand and gravel or crushed rock. The cement is what binds the mix together, and it's mainly made of limestone, calcium, silicon, iron and aluminum.

Less common is a block foundation, built of mortared cinder blocks. The third kind, a recent innovation, is an insulated concrete foundation, or ICF. A Styrofoam form is put into place and concrete poured in. When it's all done, the Styrofoam stays

in place as extra insulation. Lou built a house for himself using ICF. (You can see how it looks on his website, www.Liteform.net.) "It's very energy efficient and soundproof," he says. "We built a boat barn out near Gloucester using ICF for Bob Vila's TV show."

If you ever think about buying or building a house with a slab instead of a dug foundation, think again. "A slab is terrible in this area," says Lou. "It's only good for warm weather."

In building any foundation, says Lou, "a good excavator is important. If he fills in a spot where a big rock was, and the foundation man doesn't know it, it will be a problem. That area must be reinforced extra."

Still, "no foundation person can guarantee that the concrete won't crack," says Lou.

The most common reason for foundation problems is water. "If you have a leak, find out where the water is coming in. Look at the land," Lou advises. "Water will find the easiest way to relieve itself. Is your drainage system working right?" Fixing a drainage system will go a long way toward eliminating leaks in your basement or garage.

Waterproofing a concrete foundation can be done when a house is being built or afterwards, but as with most things, it's a lot cheaper to do it at the beginning. "We recommend waterproofing from the outside as it's being built. It's very costly to do it afterwards, because we have to excavate and sandblast." He points out that Massachusetts code says you must waterproof if you're finishing your basement.

If you do have trouble in an existing house, Lou says, "a method called crack injection can fix a leak from the inside of a poured wall. It's not cheap but does work." Outside waterproofing can be done with a spray-on heated membrane, which is applied under pressure. It will fill a crack as wide as 1/16 inch. Damp-proofing, on the other hand, is a simpler, brush-on method, but it won't fill cracks.

How do you find a good foundation person? "Hire somebody reputable," says Lou. "Make sure he has a certificate of insurance, and ask for references from his last five jobs. The cheapest work isn't necessarily the best. Homeowners must compare apples to apples, so they can make sure they know what's included."

—Ellen Weiss



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CHURCH NEWS

CHRIST CHURCH

Community dinner. On Sunday, May 15, 5-7 pm, Christ Church will be serving a community meal. We invite all the people of our community to enjoy a delicious meal and a talent show featuring members of the congregation. Donations will be accepted for the Good Samaritan Fund, which offers emergency financial assistance to people in need. Come and join your friends and neighbors for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. For more information, call the church office at 229-8811.

Bereavement support group. Hospice of the Berkshires will be sponsoring "When Mourning Dawns," a bereavement support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. It will be led by Peggy Zamierowski, a bereavement counselor with Hospice, and the Rev. Annie Ryder, the priest at Christ Church Episcopal in Sheffield, who is a hospice volunteer and chaplain and has experience leading bereavement groups.

The group will meet for eight weeks on Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm, beginning on May 4, at Christ Church. The group is free and is open to all. Registration is required. Those interested in more information or in registering for the group, call Peggy at Hospice: 413-443-2994.

SHEFFIELD FOOD PROGRAM

The early spring support of the Sheffield Food Assistance Program by students and parents at Berkshire School brought smiles to the volunteers (see story on page 6). Their efforts were greatly appreciated.

Everyone can help support this important program. Food, paper goods, toiletries and other items may be placed in the barrel at Berkshire Bank's Sheffield office at any time. Checks for the Sheffield Food Assistance Program can be sent to Old Parish Church.

The South Berkshire communities also support a Good Samaritan Fund that helps in emergency situations. Contact Annie Ryder, Christ Church, Sheffield, to donate.

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CHURCHES & SERVICES

ASHLEY FALLS

Greenwoods Community Church (non-denominational)

355 Clayton Road (413) 229-8560; parsonage (860) 824-7442.

Sunday: 9:30am Sunday School (ages 3-adult); 10:30am Worship Service, nursery care provided; Rev. Edward M. Eastman Jr., Pastor

Trinity Methodist (United Methodist)

1156 Ashley Falls Road (413) 229-2712. Sunday: 9am Service. Pastor Betty LeGeyt

GREAT BARRINGTON

Congregation Ahavath Shalom (reconstructionist)

North Street (413) 528-4197

Friday, 8pm & Saturday, 10am. Services are not held every week. Schedules are updated weekly on the answering machine, including special services.

Hevreh of Southern Berkshire

270 State Road (413) 528-6378

Friday: 7:30pm Shabbat Service; Saturday: 10am Shabbat service & Torah study.

Rabbi Deborah Zecher, Assistant Rabbi Andrew Klein

Trinity Lutheran

198 Main Street

(413) 528-1330. Sunday: 9am Sunday Worship. Rev. Steve Edmiston

Unitarian Universalist Meeting of South Berkshire

Meet at the United Methodist Church, 198 Main Street (413) 528-4850;

home (413) 528-3106. Sunday: 5pm. Rev. Kathy Duhon

SHEFFIELD

Christ Church (Episcopal)

180 Main Street (413) 229-8811

Sunday: 8am & 10am Holy Eucharist; 10am Sunday School & childcare; Thursday: 10am Holy Eucharist & Healing. Rev. Anne Ryder.

Congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses

Rte 7 & Kellogg Road (413) 229-8649. The public is welcome.

Faith Baptist

640 North Main Street (413) 229-0400 Sunday: 9:45am Sunday School; 10:45am

Worship Service; 6pm Bible Study; Wednesday: 7pm Mid-week Service; Pastor L.V. Morris.

Old Parish (Congregational)

125 Main Street (413) 229-8173 Sunday: 10am Worship. Rev. Clare Overlander, Pastor; Sunday School, 10am

Our Lady of the Valley (Catholic)

Maple Avenue (413) 229-3028; Saturday: 4:00pm Mass; Sunday: Sheffield 7:30am, 9am

Masses; Mill River 10:30 Mass. Rev. John S. Lis

Sheffield Chapel (non-denominational)

1970 N. Main Street, www.sheffieldchapel.org, (413) 528-2911 Sunday: 8am &

10:45am Morning Worship; 9:30am Sunday school for all ages; Tuesdays: 7pm Group Prayer

Time; Thursdays: Grief Share and Support Group Seminar, 7am. Pastor Chet Howes

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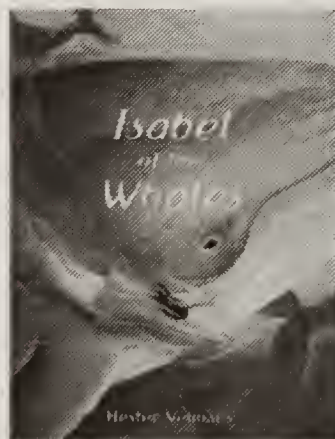
COMING EVENTS

Book sale. The Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library will be holding a book sale Fri. and Sat., May 13 and 14, at the library. The books on sale include donations to the library and books culled from the library's collection.

The book sale is one of the many ways the Friends raise money to benefit the library and its programs. This year, eager buyers can get a preview on May 12 for a \$5 admission. Gift certificates are also available.

Book talk. Sheffield resident Hester Velmans will discuss her young-adult novel, *Isabel of the Whales*, on Sat., May 21, at 2pm. It tells the story of an 11-year-old girl in Provincetown, MA, who discovers she is a "Chosen One" who can turn herself into a whale and back again. Hester Velmans is an accomplished translator who has won awards for her translations of adult novels. This is her first original novel.

Summer reading camp. The reading program is for children ages 6-10. Camp will be held at the library from Mon., June 27 through Fri., July 1, from 9am-12pm daily. A followup story hour will be held every Wednesday through July from 10am-11am. Activities at the camp will include arts and crafts, read-



ing, gardening, outdoor sports and snack. Enrollment is free. Older children are invited to apply as junior counselors. Call June Wolfe at the library at 229-7004 for more information.

Garden talk. Marie Stella Byrnes, a noted landscape architect and garden historian, will give a slide lecture on "Ornamental Vegetables and Fruit: From the Edible Landscape to the Experimental Kitchen" on Sat., May 28, at 10am. The lecture will explore two aspects of edible plants: their design potential in contributing texture, shape, form and color to the garden; and new interesting edible varieties—heirloom plants, new world vegetables originally grown by Native Americans, vegetables of unusual shapes and colors. People who attended Marie's lecture last spring on gardening in the 21st century will confirm that her talks are well researched and fascinating. The Friends of the Bushnell-Sage Library are especially pleased to sponsor this program.

ONLINE ACCESS IS EASY

Your friend recommends a "must-read" book or your book group picks a book you don't own. You take the time out of your busy day to stop at the library and they don't have it. Next time, avoid the frustration and delay. Get out your library card and go online.

Visit cwmars.org and click on "login." Enter your library card number. If this is your first time, hit Enter and the program will prompt you to create a PIN. That's it—you're in. While you're online you can review the list of books you have out and renew them. Or go to "search catalogue" and look for that elusive book, video, DVD or CD by title, author or subject. When you've found it, select "request." You will be prompted to name a pickup location. Just typing an "S" will

bring you to Sheffield. Deliveries are made to the Sheffield Library on Mondays and Thursdays, so expect a phone call shortly from the Sheffield librarians. Or go back online and check the status of the title you've ordered.

—June Wolfe

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POLICE DEPARTMENT

Party at the park. The Sheffield Police Dept. is excited to host a "Family Fun and Safety Day" in conjunction with the Sheffield Kiwanis Club, which will be cutting the ribbon for the new storage shed built by the Mt. Everett Building Structures Program (see related article on page 25). The festivities will be held at the Sheffield Town Park on May 14, 10am to 2pm. Food will be provided by the Kiwanis Club.

The program will feature a bicycle rodeo for youth up to the 5th grade, with free bike helmets for those who don't have them. Also on hand will be the 911-Smoke House, a training tool used by county fire departments to teach kids how to get out of a burning building. The house will be delivered and set up by the Sheffield Fire Dept., who will also have a fire truck on display.

A Police K-9 unit will do a demonstration about noon. At 12:30 or so, trained ropes facilitators will open up one or more of the high ropes elements at the Town Park. If you've ever wanted to take a ride on the zip line, this will be your chance.

The Sheffield Kiwanis hopes to provide a "bounce house," which is always a big draw for the little ones. There will also be information booths set up for a variety of subjects.

Missing Tire

The Police Dept. requests that whoever "borrowed" the tire from the Town Park please return it. The tire is an important part of a ropes element. No questions asked.

Trained officers will do child car seat checks for anyone who wants to have their child's seat inspected. Free car seats will be given out to anyone whose seat fails inspection. The Police Dept. will also be offering free child I.D.'s and gun locks.



The Police Dept. will do free child car seat checks at the Family Fun and Safety Day, as demonstrated by Officer Tim Ullrich.

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN FROM THE MEETING MINUTES

2/7—The Board postponed discussion of a letter from the Berkshire Regional Planning Commission concerning the development of a local hazard-mitigation plan pending its review by local public safety officials. The multi-municipality plan, if approved, is expected to cost the Town of Sheffield \$2,000 in matching funds.

The Selectmen asked Town Administrator Robert Weitz to determine whether or not Peter J. Batacchi (d/b/a Pete's Sales and Service) had already installed a larger, 22,000-gallon underground storage tank pursuant to an application Batacchi had sent to the Administrator.

Acting upon a request from Mr. and Mrs. Rick Boardman, the Board unanimously approved the tuition for their two daughters, Sheri and Rene, to attend the agricultural education program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School in 2005-2006.

Sheffield Fire Chief Rick Boardman informed the Board of the Fire Dept.'s plans to expand the existing firehouse. Also present was Dana Bartholomew, the abutting landowner, who expressed his willingness to assist in the project. The Selectmen commended the volunteers of the department for the time, effort and commitment they give to the town.

The Board appointed Peter Marks, a former employee of the Great Barrington Dept. of Public Works, as a part-time on-call employee for the Highway Dept., pending routine background checks. It unanimously approved language changes to Section V of the town's Personnel Policy.

Town Administrator Weitz informed the Selectmen that the Board of Directors of Dewey Memorial Hall had requested their presence at a meeting on Feb. 17 for the purpose of discussing the Council on Aging's lease renewal for the Senior Center.

Chairman Richard J. Kirchner reported on a phone call he'd received from a resident concerned about the lack of a stop sign at the intersection of Kellogg Rd. and Boardman St. The chairman

wondered whether the absence of a stop sign there might render the town liable in lawsuits. Administrator Weitz responded that because drivers are required to yield at the intersection, the town is not liable for the lack of a stop sign.

2/28—The Selectmen appointed Sena Roche to the position of part-time clerk to the Treasurer/Tax Collector. At the request of Verizon New England, the Board held a public hearing on the company's petition for relocation of 17 telephone poles on Berkshire School Rd.

Previously, on Feb. 11, the Board had mailed notices to all abutters, advising them of the hearing. Several residents were present to question Verizon's representative, Bob Kerwood, about the placement of poles on or near their property. After a brief discussion, Kerwood agreed to arrange a meeting between Verizon officials, the affected residents and a representative from Mass. Electric Company.

Upon the recommendation of Town Clerk Felecie Joyce, the Board voted to hire Elsie Gilligan as Assistant Town Clerk on a trial basis.

Peter J. Batacchi, d/b/a Pete's Sales and Service, appeared before the Board to inform it that an 11,000-gallon underground fuel-storage tank at his business had been removed and replaced with three tanks totaling 22,000 gallons in capacity. He described the replacement tanks as a 10,000-gallon regular-unleaded fuel tank; an 8,000-gallon super-unleaded fuel tank and a 4,000-gallon diesel-fuel tank. Selectman David D. Macy noted that there had been some confusion about what had occurred because the tank had been replaced before the application to do so had been submitted to the Board for approval. The Board then voted to grant retroactive approval to Mr. Batacchi's application to install the three new storage tanks.

Marina Coulin submitted an application for an alcohol-free entertainment license for The Lantern. Coulin said she intended to use the facilities as a meeting place for recovery groups, to hold

dance classes and other social events and to offer live musical entertainment. She further stated that because she would be living next door to The Lantern, she would be able to keep an eye on the place. Her intention, she said, is to be a good neighbor and to improve the appearance of the property. Selectman Janet Stanton wondered who would be operating The Lantern and during what hours the proposed events would be scheduled. Coulin replied that she would be the operator and that the Friday evening events would probably run from 8pm to midnight. Town Administrator Weitz advised the Board that it had until March 24 to vote on her request or open it up to a public hearing. [See related story on page 20.]

Planning Board Chair Rene Wood updated the Board on the Smart Growth Grant, noting that if the Board had any suggestion regarding the zoning by-laws, now would be the time to make them. Pauline Schumann reported that although she has collected several options regarding the proposed expansion of the Senior Center, she does not have the authority to do any background work on the project. She requested that the Board appoint a committee under the Council on Aging to give her group the authority to do the background work. [See related story on page 7.]

The Board noted that it would consider a request by Blantyre to use the Covered Bridge for a picnic once the resort obtained the Kolburne School's permission to picnic in the area. (Kolburne School owns land next to the Covered Bridge.)

Upon the recommendation of Town Counsel, the Board voted to accept recommended language changes to Section VI of the Personnel Policy.

Harold Wickwire of 208 East Stahl Rd. registered a complaint about his neighbor's dogs, which, he claimed, have been coming onto his property. Wickwire stated that he had called the neighbor several times as well as the Police Dept. and Animal Control Officer Martin Clark, but nothing had been

done to solve the problem. Selectman Stanton suggested that Wickwire submit a written complaint to the Board for action.

3/7—Chairman Kirchner stated that the Board had as yet received no response from the Verizon's Bob Kerwood regarding the meeting about telephone pole relocation. As a result, Selectman Macy moved that the hearing be continued until the Board's March 21 meeting.

Regarding Marina Coulon's request for an entertainment license for The Lantern, Chairman Kirchner stated that the Board had received copies of several letters sent to the Board of Health that expressed concerns about the Lantern's septic system. He also noted that the Board is currently waiting for the Building Inspector's report. Coulon said that she had contacted Joe Wilkinson to perform an inspection of the septic system. Upon Chairman Kirchner's motion, the Board agreed to table the matter until after the Board of Health meets on March 14 and reports are received back from the inspectors.

The Board approved a request from Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kilmer to pay the tuition expenses for their sons, Robbie and Harrison Kilmer, to attend the agricultural education program at Housatonic Valley Regional High School during the 2005/2006 school year.

3/14—The Board voted to appoint Beverly Gilbert to the position of Administrative Assistant to the Town Administrator and Board of Selectmen (she returns to the job after a hiatus) and to appoint Bruce Person to the position of Constable.

Acting on a recent audit performed

by the firm Melanson, Heath & Co., the Board voted to approve a Departmental Receipt Policies & Procedures policy.

Town Administrator Weitz informed the Board that a Purchase and Sale Agreement for \$87,000 had been received from Karen and Paul Tepper for a lot at the Sheffield Business Park and that a deposit check of \$8,700 had also been received by Town Counsel. The Board then voted to sign the agreement. Fire Chief Boardman discussed current procedures for hiring applicants to the Hose Company. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed that all applicants should first obtain an application from the Board of Selectmen's office and then return it to the Board for review. After that, the application would be referred to the Hose Company for its review and recommendation. It was also agreed that appointments would be made for a three-month probationary period, after which the Board would either issue a final recommendation or extend the probationary period for another three months.

3/21—Verizon's Right of Way Manager Albert Bessette, Jr., was present to inform the Board that a meeting had been held with residents affected by Verizon's proposed telephone pole relocation and that all of the issues had been resolved satisfactorily. Mr. Bessette submitted, and the Board approved, the following proposed amendments to Verizon's petition, as follows:

- ♦ 98 Berkshire School Road, J. Russell. A guy wire attached to a tree will be replaced with a push brace on the other side of the road.

- ♦ 152 Berkshire School Road, B. Margolis. A sycamore originally set to be

removed will not be disturbed

- ♦ 114 Berkshire School Road, B. Williamson. To ensure water service will not be interrupted, Dig Safe will be contacted prior to any work performed in this area.

The Board agreed that a public hearing should be held on some future date regarding the petition for a proposed entertainment license for The Lantern.

After a brief discussion, the Board voted to approve a request from Kenny Race for a street curb cut on Polikoff Rd., pending the customary review by the Chief of Police.

The Board voted to accept recommended language changes to Section VII of the Personnel Policy.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADES

Monday, May 30

Ashley Falls parade, 8am, starting at the Village Green. See page 20 for details.

Sheffield parade, 11am, starting at Mt. Everett Regional School with ceremonies in the center of Sheffield at the war memorials and Barnard Park.



Phil Macy and Milt Barnum raise the flag over the World War II memorial at the annual Sheffield Memorial Day parade.

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PLANNING BOARD

At its regular board meetings in March and April, the Planning board endorsed several Form A's (approval not required for land division), including a revised Form A for Hulett Hill Estates for 12 lots, down from the 13 presented previously. We continue to work with Nextel to have them provide the insurance and indemnification documentation required before approval can be given to begin cell service.

Hearings. The special permit application of Karen & Paul Tepper of Spark Manufacturing for proposed use of office, warehousing, light manufacturing of lighting products and office-warehouse space rental in the Sheffield Business Park, Lot 1, East Stahl Rd., was approved at the April 5 meeting. The application of BGR Associates, Robert Beham and David Rood, to create a new lot from property at 77 & 79 Clayton Road, Ashley Falls, under Article 5.1.c (Alternative Lot Dimensions) was approved on April 19.

All special permits are subject to a 20-day appeal period when received by the Town Clerk. Each Decision & Detailed Record is available in the Town Clerk's office.

A public hearing was held on April 19 to consider increasing special permit application fees from \$100 to \$250. Upon reviewing the costs incurred in processing these applications, the board found that the fees did not cover the costs, the largest of which is required hearing notices in the paper. The board continued the hearing until May 3.

Master Plan. The board continues to hold extra meetings to work on clarifying the Master Plan. We anticipate an early May vote on adopting the clarified recommendations. The next step will be to form an Implementation Advisory Committee to assist the various town boards and agencies in implementing Master Plan recommendations. Where recommendations do not require board or town approval, as with many of the economic recommendations, the advisory committee will work with the community to achieve results.

Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant. We have had two meetings with Attorney Mark Bobrowski, the consultant on the diagnostic review of existing Sheffield zoning and town by-laws, with a third meeting set for May 3. These meetings have been overwhelming at times—so much information—but have greatly helped the board understand what needs to be done to bring Sheffield's zoning by-laws into legal compliance as well as bringing them up-to-date. Once Bobrowski has completed his review, the board will begin seeking public input on the next step.

In early May, we are expecting the first report from Berkshire Regional Planning Commission, the consultant working on identifying changes needed to make zoning by-laws consistent with the Master Plan. Once again, public input will be sought and needed.

The third task under the grant, preparation of a Right To Farm By-Law, was completed and will be voted on at the May 2 Town Meeting.

Coming months. The board expects to complete the Master Plan review. It will work on tasks associated with the Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant and anticipated special permit applications from other Business Park tenants. In addition, the board will shortly begin a redesign of various applications and other forms to make them easier to understand and complete.

Recording Secretary wanted: If interested, please contact: Rene Wood, 229-2875.

Meetings: Regular board meetings: First and third Tuesday of the month, first-floor Carlton French Meeting Room, Town Hall. Summer hours (7:30pm), beginning May 3, will continue through August. Special Permit meetings or working meetings are scheduled as needed; times and dates are posted on the Town Hall bulletin board.

—Rene Wood, Chairman

DETAILS ON RECENT 'APPROVAL NOT REQUIRED'S'

From 2/15 minutes of the Planning Board: Mike Parsons presented a Form A on behalf of David and Nicole Ullrich for property on Salisbury Rd. There is the creation of a 1.697-acre lot that includes 100 feet of road frontage. The Conservation Commission has been consulted and all permits are pending. The application was approved as submitted.

3/15: Mike Parsons presented a Form A on behalf of Thomas A. Hyman for property on Home and Old Joe Rds. From existing lot, 5.041 and 2.001-acre lots will be created. The existing house will be on the 5.041-acre parcel. The application was approved as submitted.

4/5: Robert Brown from Accord Engineering presented a Form A application on behalf of William and

Dorothy Devoti for the division of property on Foley Rd. The plan shows only the 23.82 acres of property that has been surveyed. The remaining acreage of the original 68 acres parcel is not displayed on the drawing. After some discussion, the Board returned all documentation to Brown because the application was not complete.

Mike Parsons presented a Form A on behalf of George and Sharon Moulton for property on Bears Den Rd. The existing 4.60 acres is being divided into two parcels, Lot 1 to consist of 2.306 acres and Lot 2 to consist of 2.299 acres. Dan Moulton recused himself from this portion of the meeting because the property owner is his brother. The remaining members of the Board unanimously approved the plan.

Transfer Station Hours

Tuesdays & Fridays: 1pm-4pm; Saturdays: 8am-4pm
Sundays: 8:30am-2pm

FIRE LOG

Chief Rick Boardman

February

- 17 Truck fire. Alarm time 1:30pm. In service 1:55pm.
- 24 Alarm at 121 Hickey Hill Rd. Alarm time 1:23am. In service 1:34am.
- 24 Alarm at Mt. Everett High School. Alarm time 1:10pm. In service 1:22pm.

March

- 13 Sheffield Plastics—smoke from machine. Alarm time 9:25pm. In service 9:41pm.
- 24 Lifting assistance for Southern Berkshires Volunteer Ambulance Service. Alarm time 2:30pm. In service 2:46pm.

April

- 1 Alarm at Mt. Everett High School. Alarm time 2:39pm. In service 2:49pm.
- 4 Burnt food in Stanley Dormitory at Berkshire School. Alarm time 7:32am. In service 8:00am.
- 5 Smoke in the area near Great Barrington town line. Alarm time 9:21pm. In service 9:48pm.
- 6 Brush fire at 1640 Home Rd. Alarm time 2:40pm. In service 3:35pm.

BULKY WASTE COLLECTION

Sheffield residents can dispose of furniture, mattresses, rugs or construction refuse from do-it-yourself projects at a bulky waste collection at the Sheffield Transfer Station in May. Each household can obtain a coupon for one load (up to pickup size) at the Tax Collector's office in Town Hall or by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to the Tax Collector, P.O. Box 367, Sheffield, MA 01257 (include the license plate number for the vehicle you'll be using).

Hours of the collection are 2-4pm on Fri., May 20; 8am-4pm on Sat., May 21; and 8:30-12 on Sun., May 22. No demolition debris, TV sets, computer monitors, tires, or toxic waste.

Call David Steindler at 299-2628 or Town Hall at 229-2335 with questions.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Zoning Board of Appeals approves expansion. At a hearing April 7, approval was granted for the expansion of the existing firehouse. The next step for the Fire Dept. is fundraising—\$300,000 must be raised to fund the project. Chief Rick Boardman is hoping that construction will start in 2007, but if fundraising goes well, he says, the start date can be pushed forward to spring 2006. Look for details in coming issues.

SENIOR CENTER

Barbecue. Those who remember Terry Walsh's delicious chicken BBQ will not want to miss the one he will prepare for seniors for Thurs., May 26. Contribution is \$5; nothing to bring.

Cheese and crackers at 6:15, buffet at 6:30, entertainment at 7.

Picnic. Wed., June 15, is the day for our annual Tri-town Picnic at the Town Park, starting at 12 noon. Save the date!



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ZBA: Barabara West at 229-7727

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NEWS FROM THE ASHLEY FALLS VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

Formed in 1914 to serve the common good of Village residents, the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society enters its 91st year happy to announce the upcoming spring community events.

Annual community meeting. It's Friday, May 13 at 7pm, at the social hall of the Ashley Falls Trinity Methodist Church, located north of the blinker at the village center on Ashley Falls Rd. (Route 7A). The agenda is presented by the board president, Bruce Howden, discussion is encouraged and lively, officers are elected and refreshments are served. Please come and take part.

Memorial Day Parade. Monday, May 30, 8am, beginning at the village green and proceeding through the village to the Ashley Falls Cemetery. Following the service, please join with family, friends, and neighbors for homemade donuts and hot coffee on the lawn of Trinity Methodist Church. In case of rain, the ceremony will take place at Trinity Methodist Church, with the gathering afterward in the church hall. Veterans, please march in the parade. Kids, decorate your bikes and join us.

Our community and people. For many, many years, whenever we've had an event, Dick Brooks always made sure we had electricity (which he brought out from his and Joan's house facing the village green). Dick made sure the traffic was diverted. He provided and set up the tables and trash barrels. In Dick Brooks we saw the traits and qualities we would like to see in ourselves. Dick and Joan's community spirit, their support, generosity, and good humor, have been an essential part of Ashley Falls for 50 years. Dick died in March. As a father, grandfather, and husband, to his country and community, in business, and as a friend and neighbor, Dick was the best.

Other tidbits: A small group of close friends and family gathered to share much happiness with Kathie Ness and John James, who were finally married! (Opposite-sex marriages are still allowed in Massachusetts.) Nancy and Dwight Dellert have a new dog whose name is Cindy. Jeff Steele and Charlie Spicer also have a new dog whose name is not Cindy.

The bridge. The new, the old, and the very old. On March 12, Ebay, the internet auction house, offered item #6164573840: Ashley Falls Bridge Real Photo Postcard, circa 1915. The image shows the old, old bridge over the Konkapot, looking north toward the village green from the Canaan side. The Vollmers' barn is visible, as is the present-day post office building. This postcard, though nice enough, resembles many others showing Sheffield of days long past at the Historical Society and in family collections—interesting, but not rare. At Ebay the bidding ended, the gavel fell, and the postcard of Ashley Falls Bridge sold for \$66.25!

Construction of the new bridge continues. It's big and it's tall: the new roadbed is six feet higher than the old. It's impressive and shocking upon first view. It's also on schedule and should be finished by the end of summer. Let's hope so—we miss our friends and neighbors over the river.

The Lantern. Most small towns have a roadhouse on the outskirts of town. Since the 1940s, the Lantern (under various owners) had been serving booze and a good time on Clayton Rd. near the Connecticut state line—until last year, when it closed after the death of the owner, Dale Palmer. The Lantern was a blood-on-the-jukebox, live-and-let-live, country-back-road gin mill. The bands were loud, so were the motorcycles, and the liquor was cheap. We hoped and prayed everyone got home safely...sometimes they didn't. The Sheffield police and the Connecticut state troopers simply could not always be there. Every year the AFVIS would hear the same sad stories about life around the Lantern, about litter and drunkenness and too much late night laughter.

Well, if you miss the Lantern and did not read page one of the Berkshire Eagle's Berkshire section on April 6, read this: "Sobriety Club Given Board's OK." Marina Coulon, niece of former owner Dale Palmer, has been granted an entertainment license for live music on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights from 8pm till midnight at the former Lantern, now called Turning Point at the

Lantern. Coulon is quoted as saying "she envisions the new, no-alcohol Lantern as a place where recovering addicts of all sorts can have a place to gather, have meetings, and enjoy entertainment." She also plans to have country and western line dancing, yoga classes, and community meetings. (Maybe the Improvement Society could have its meeting there, do a little yoga and some line dancing... We'll discuss it on the 13th, if it's on the agenda.)

The cookbook. Thanks to everybody who submitted their favorite family recipes. We have collected over 90 different dishes for the tentatively titled "Ashley Falls for All Seasons" cookbook, being created to commemorate the 90th anniversary of the AFVIS. We hope to have it finished this fall, and we're still accepting recipes. Send 'em to P.O. Box 6, Ashley Falls, MA 01222.

Historic District Commission. The AFVIS strongly supports the Ashley Falls Historic District. We also support The Trustees of Reservations at Bartholomew's Cobble, the Sheffield Land Trust, the various public and private



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agricultural land protections, and the Conservation Commission. Everybody sees how quickly the Berkshire landscape is changing; the character of the villages is also changing. While those of us who are property owners within the Historic District often feel that the commission is intrusive, as a community we recognize that it's the fairest way to both develop and preserve for the future. The Historic District, The Cobble and Colonel Ashley House, the various land protections and our broad floodplain are all elements that help us continue the way of life we seek in our fragile village. The preservation of the historic Ashley Fall Trinity Methodist

Church was greatly funded by the state because Ashley Falls, its village homes and broad farms, its history and landscape, are little changed, much loved, and worth the trouble of preservation.

The Old Red Mill, after 35 troubled years, is being restored by Howard Chezar of South Egremont. Howard has worked with the state and the feds concerning the new bridge, and he's working with the Historic District Commission on the mill. It's a big project involving a rare historic property that is an important part of the village and its history—and also worth the trouble.

Please, if you have a place within the historic district and are planning any

exterior work, be aware of the guidelines, call a member of the commission (they offer good advice for free), and fill out the necessary form. The bigger your project, the earlier you contact the commission the better. The commission meets the first Tuesday of each month, 6:30pm at Town Hall and meetings are open to the public. Contact Aiden Cassidy 229-2097 for information.

We hope to see everyone at the Memorial Day Parade!

—Richard Cherneff, vice president, AFVIS

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ASHLEY FALLS CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

The Ashley Falls Cemetery is located on Clayton Rd. and is known as the Sackett Cemetery, though whether the Sacketts actually donated the land has been questioned. It's a "private" cemetery, owned and maintained by the Ashley Falls Cemetery Association, which consists of lot owners and/or others interested in the well being of the cemetery. It is not supported by the town, except for an annual payment of \$324 for old soldiers' graves (18 graves at \$18 each). The cemetery is completely non-denominational, and anyone of any race or religion is welcome to own a lot.

For many years, Bill and Blanche Bennett, long-time officers of the association, have been carrying out all the association activities themselves. Association meetings, sporadic during the 1930s and skipped during the war years of the early 40s, resumed in the 50s, when the Ashley Falls Village Improvement Society assisted with funds. In 1964, the "new" part of the cemetery, on the west side of the original yard, was turned over to the association by the F.A. and D.U. Smith families, owners of the quarry at the time. Meetings and cemetery business continued into the 1980s, operating mostly under the "if-it-ain't-broke, don't fix it" philosophy. As time went on, several officers and Board of Directors passed away, leaving the Bennetts.

Blanche has taken care of the cemetery finances, kept up the insurance and corporate matters, while Bill has mowed, trimmed, repaired fences, cleaned up leaves, branches, and much more. We are forever grateful to both of them. A plaque was presented to them by the Cemetery Association in recognition and appreciation for their dedication.

The time has come for the Bennetts to have some help, so the corporation has been re-activated. The Ashley Falls Cemetery Association held a re-organizational meeting on October 22, 2004, with about 20 in attendance. Several additional meetings have been held, and new officers and directors elected, with Natalie Funk as president and Claudia Martin vice-president. Blanche agreed to continue as secretary-treasurer with Maree Funk as her assistant. The new board members are Joan Brooks, Bill Bennett, Ken Kushi, Tim Hewins and Fred Bangs. Officers and board members voted to invite bids for lawn mowing and trimming.

The association is also reviewing all options for the lot on Route 7A between the Bush and Carlson properties that's owned by the Association. It was turned over to the association by the town in 1947 for cemetery use. While there are still some lots available in the Sackett Cemetery, it was the consensus that we should think about getting the lot cleared. Everyone is welcome at association meetings. The board hopes to hold them annually again, when some of the more pressing issues have been addressed.



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Organizations & Businesses

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Sheffield Market to reopen under new management. After being closed for three months, the Sheffield Market is about to reopen. It has been bought by Savvas Kasekas, the co-owner of the Village on the Green restaurant and pizzeria next door. Savvas plans to keep everything pretty much the same as it was in his new establishment. It will be manned—make that woman—by his three daughters, Maria, Despina, and Rania.

Neighborgoods opens in Sheffield center. A very special sort of store has opened next to Silk's, where Linens Etc. used to be. It is the brainchild of Caitlin Hotaling, and it's special because she is selling only items made by people right here in the Sheffield area. Its name is Neighborgoods—Local Creations. Going beyond handicrafts, she carries books, yarn, CDs, jewelry, pottery, and anything else our creative residents produce. Among her wares are Kathy Orlando's art photography, JoAnne Catsos's baskets, Marcia Friedman's pottery, silk-screened calendars and pottery by the French family, and Tom Ingersoll's CD. Caitlin keeps hearing about new sources all the time. "Whenever I tell people about what I'm doing, they say, 'That's great, and did you know so-and-so is an artist?'"

An artist herself, Caitlin hasn't had much time to paint since her daughter, Elizabeth, was born 2½ years ago. But she says that in her free moments she plans to hang some of her own art in the store.



Caitlin Hotaling behind the counter at her new store Neighborgoods -- Local Creations, in the center of Sheffield next to Silk's Variety.

Caitlin had a "soft opening" on May 1, to get any kinks out of the operation before the Grand Opening in June. The store is open on Fridays from 12 to 7, to be available to visitors to the Farmers' Market, as well as Saturdays from 10 to 4, Sundays from 12 to 4, and Mondays from 10 to 4.

"My whole goal," she says, "is just to be local—people whose names you've probably heard." So if you have a secret art or craft (or a not-secret one), why not share it with Caitlin?

—Ellen Weiss



SHEFFIELD LAND TRUST Annual Meeting

...coming in June

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and program!*

*Watch for details in the local papers as
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The exhibition "100 Years of Regional New England Horology: Selected Massachusetts and Connecticut Clocks and Timepieces, 1750 to 1850" remains on view in the Old Stone Store through Memorial Day.

Work bee. Join us for spring-cleaning! All ages and skill levels are welcome. Call the office to let us know you will be attending. Meet at the Dan Raymond House. Saturday, May 7, 10am-noon.

History of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Berkshire County. Ed Surjan of Hill House Antiques, well known as a collector and dealer of quality furniture and decorative objects of this period will speak Friday, May 13, 7:30pm, Dewey Memorial Hall.

Hudson River Valley trip. Join us for a trip to two Hudson Valley estates, Olana and Cedar Grove. Olana was the home of Hudson River School artist Frederick Church. It was constructed as a Moorish villa in 1870, designed by architect Calvin Vaux. Cedar Grove was the home of Thomas Cole, father of the Hudson River School of painting and teacher of Frederick Church. We'll tour Olana in the morning. The group will lunch at a nearby restaurant and then go on to the second estate. If interested, call the Society or Joyce Hawkins at 229-3691 before May 11. The trip is planned for Wednesday, May 18.

"Mapping our way into the future," an exhibit exploring the region's boundaries of time and place from the 18th through the 20th century opens Saturday, June 4, at the Old Stone Store, and remains on view through July 10.

Annual meeting. Friday, June 10, 7:30pm, Dewey Memorial Hall.

Annual spring party. Saturday, June 11, 12 to 3:00pm, location to be announced.

The Sheffield Historical Society is located on Route 7 in the center of Sheffield. The Old Stone Store is also on Route 7, on the Green in Sheffield. Tours of the Dan Raymond House are available by appointment during the winter and Thurs. through Sat. from Memorial Day through Oct. The Mark Dewey Research Center is open Mon. and Fri. 1:30-4pm and by appointment. For more information, contact the Sheffield Historical Society, 159-161 Main St., P.O. Box 747, Sheffield, MA 01257, 413-229-2694 or email shs@sheffieldhistory.org.

BARTHOLOMEW'S COBBLE PROGRAMS

Life in a vernal pool, Sat. May 7, 10am-noon. Explore life in our spring ponds. Look for egg masses of wood frogs and salamanders. Learn about the ecology of these complex natural communities. Come prepared to get wet and muddy. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4. Non-members: adult/child \$6.

Volunteer work parties. Every Thursday through October, 9-11:30am. Work with staff to remove exotic invasive species. Learn how to identify and conserve our native species. Free to all.

Bird walks. Sundays through June 12, 7-8:30am. Explore various avian habitats as spring migrants arrive. Birders of all levels are welcome. Bring binoculars. Pre-register. Members: free. Non-members: adult \$6, child \$3.

Spring wildflowers, Sat., May 7, and Sun. May 8, 10-11:30am. The limestone soils at the Cobble host a striking display of woodland wildflowers. Enjoy hepatica, spring beauty, Dutchman's breeches, cut-leaved toothwort, red and white trillium and many others with a naturalist/guide. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4. Non-members: adult/child \$6.

Ecology of a beaver marsh. Saturday, May 14 & 28, 10am-noon. Explore a wetland created by beavers and look for associated wildlife. Learn how beavers help maintain regional biodiversity. Binoculars helpful. Pre-register. Members: adult/child \$4. Nonmembers: adult/child \$6.

Wild edibles. Sunday, May 29, 10am-noon. Learn to identify dozens of wild edibles and how to collect them ethically and incorporate them into your own cuisine. Pre-register. Members: adult \$6, child \$3. Nonmembers: adult \$8, child \$4.

Memorial Day canoe trip. Mon., May 30, 9am-noon. Explore wildlife on the Housatonic River with a naturalist/guide. Pre-register. Members: adult \$15, child (10-16) \$10. Nonmembers: adult \$25, child (10-16) \$15.

Common ferns of the Cobble, Sun., June 12, 10-11:30am. Bartholomew's Cobble is famous for its wealth of ferns. Learn to identify some of the more common species. Handouts and hand lenses provided. Pre-register. Members: adult \$4. Nonmembers: adult \$6.

Programs meet at the Cobble on Weatogue Rd. in Ashley Falls. Members of the Trustees of Reservations attend free or at a reduced rate. For more information, call 229-8600.



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ART LEAGUE SCHOLARSHIP SHOW

Several local students won scholarship awards in the 30th anniversary of the Sheffield Art League's High School Scholarship Art Competition. The 70 works of art in the competition were on view at the Bushnell-Sage Library in early April.

First prize (\$1,000) went to Isao Takezawa, a student at Berkshire School who will attend Rhode Island School of Design in the fall. Second prize (\$700) went to Darraugh Rooney, of Webutuck High School, who will attend Pratt in New York City.

The judges decided the artists were so gifted they awarded two 3rd prizes (\$400), to Jenna Catsos, a student at Mt. Everett High School who will attend Green Mountain College, and Wai Ying Cheng, at Berkshire School, who will attend School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Several Honorable Mentions were awarded (gift certificates for art supplies donated by JWS in Great Barrington): Briana Schnopp of Wahconah HS, heading for Massachusetts College of Art; Emily Carlson, Berkshire School (Colby-Sawyer College); Chung Won Han, Berkshire School (Brown or Tufts); Jackie Batanglo, Wahconah HS (U Mass Amherst).

Each year Berkshire region high school art teachers are asked to nominate their most talented seniors who will major in art in college. Each artist submits up to four pieces, which can be paintings, drawings, sculpture, pottery, or digital art works. This year 18 students participated from six area schools. The process began in January. Three and a half months later, after countless phone calls, mailings and e-mails, we have a show.

The judges for the show, all members of the Sheffield Art League, were Bill Connell, Ellen Murtagh, and Marion Grant. They spent over three hours deciding which students would be granted the scholarships. Their task was not an easy one, since the quality of the work was outstanding.

More than 80 people attended the show opening on April 3. Each of the judges spoke very personally to the students about their work. Each participant received a certificate from the Art League that heralded their participation in the show.

The event was supported by the generous help given by

members of the Art League in preparing the reception and hanging the show: Lois Van Cleef, Lois and Jack Ryder, Theresa Bellizzi, Gillian Seidl, Hans Heuberger, and Barbara Fletcher. Francesca Turchiano did publicity for the event. Thanks also to Nancy Hahn and her wonderful crew at the library for their cooperation and help. Carol Sica, member of the Art League board, is chair of the scholarship fund.

The other gifted students in the show were: Ian Leferts (heading for Northwestern), Devin Lyman (Paier Art School), and Ashley Miller (Fashion Institute of Technology) from Housatonic Valley HS; Kort Hiser (Savannah College of Art), Christopher Jadatz (also Savannah College of Art), Caitly Tucker (Berkshire Community College), from Taconic HS; Nick Green (Wentworth Institute of Technology) from Mt. Everett HS; and Jai Chavarry (Art Institute of Los Angeles), Beth Ann Palmer (Cazenovia College), and Kylie Pellegrino (Hartford Art School, University of Hartford) from Wahconah HS.

It is not possible to overstate the importance of the six teacher/mentors in the lives of the students. Their dedication, tireless effort and advocacy for these young artists is to be commended: Bonnie Tatro, Wahconah HS; Martha Thomson, Mt. Everett HS; Susan Morley, Berkshire School; Warren Prindle, Housatonic Valley HS; Samuel FitzGerald, Webutuck Central HS; and Mary Beth Eldridge, Taconic HS.

The money for the scholarships is donated by members and friends of the Art League through a solicitation each year. Anyone wishing to support this fund may do so by writing a check to SAL, and putting "scholarship fund" in the memo line of the check. Mail your check to: Sheffield Art League, P.O. Box 296, Great Barrington, MA 01230.

—Carol Sica

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SCHOOL AND LAND TRUST HOSTS AGRICULTURAL FAIR

Following the success of last year's Agricultural Job Fair, exhibitors, students and teachers have been eager for the Sheffield Land Trust to make the event an annual affair. This year's fair is Thursday, June 2, 9am-2pm, and entry is free.

Students, teachers and people from the community are invited to check out the horses, cows, llamas, sheep and chickens, not to mention the vegetables, apples and strawberries. Farmers will be on hand to discuss their work, along with local chefs and vendors of various agricultural products. The Land Trust's aim in hosting the fair is to give people from both the school and the community an opportunity to meet and talk with the people who make our local agricultural economy viable.

The event is held outdoors behind Mt. Everett High School. The lawn is dotted with different types of animals, tall orchard ladders, trucks displaying products

and grills for cooking samples of local foods offered by some of our finest restaurants.

The first fair was not only an opportunity for elementary and high school students to become familiar with the many aspects of local agriculturally based businesses, but also for older students to talk directly with people with

whom they could do an internship. The Land Trust's agricultural internships offer a unique opportunity for juniors and seniors to experience first-hand work that can further a personal passion or lead to a career or college choice.

This year, the Land Trust hopes there will be nearly 50 exhibitors, an increase



Dick LeGeyt of Toby Hill Farm in Sheffield talks with three students about caring for calves at last year's agricultural fair at Southern Berkshire Regional School District.

over last year. Like last year, there will be a variety of animals and types of farms represented, from dairy to orchards and forestry. Also represented will be organizations working to preserve the land essential to agriculture and the open space that attracts people to our area to enjoy the products of our farms. Other vendors will include businesses selling local products, the restaurants that use them, farms that make value-added goods, and suppliers of feed.

All of these diverse businesses demonstrate how broadly agriculture affects our Berkshire economy. Come see for yourself the power of local support to the success of a local agricultural economy.

—Ann Hanchett

SHEFFIELD KIWANIS NEWS

Thank yous. Once again we offer our gratitude to the citizens of the nine communities served by the Sheffield Kiwanis Club for their support of our Good Friday Radiothon. We were able to squeeze the event into the early spring schedule with the cooperation of the new owners of station WSBS. A reminder has been mailed recently to those pledges still unfulfilled. Send your contribution to Sheffield Kiwanis Club, P.O. Box 683, Sheffield, MA 01257.

Thanks to Irene MacDonald and Hilda Banks Shapiro who staged the third annual musical production at the Consolati Performing Arts Center in mid-April. A cast of over 30 local talents participated, and the response from the community was again rewarding.

Mike Britton and Jim Collingwood supervised the Youth Bowling Tourney at Cove Lanes in Great Barrington the same weekend as the musical. This is the second year Kiwanis has sponsored this outing, along with sending two young bowlers to the state competition.

Little League. Our 2005 Little League season began unofficially with the Pre-Season Tournament at French Park on April 23-24. The regular playing schedule will culminate in the All-Star Game on Sun., June 26, at the Sheffield Town Park.

Town park festivities. On Sat., May

14, the Town Park will come alive with activities leading up to the ribbon cutting for the new storage shed built by the Mt. Everett Building Structures Program, featured in the January/February issue of the Sheffield Times. The project was generously funded by local banks and businesses. Sherry Johnson of the Sheffield Police Dept. is coordinating a Family Fun-Safety Day—see the article on page 15 for more on that. Activities begin at 10am.

Other events. The New England District Kiwanis Cruise, with 14 local travelers joining the nearly 100 Kiwanians, is scheduled to take place the first week of May. The cruise on the Norwegian Majesty sails from Boston and will spend three days in St. Georges in Bermuda.

This year's scholarship recipients will be honored at our annual banquet at Limey's on Tues., June 7. The winners will be notified prior to that occasion. One of our major events of the year is the Annual Kiwanis Golf Tournament at the Egremont Country Club. The date is Fri., June 17. Watch local ads as the time approaches for further details.

—Richard L. Goodwin

The Sheffield Kiwanis meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. at Limey's Restaurant.

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- 22 Doris Traub to Peter H. & Doris R. Traub, property at 651 Silver St., transfer.
- 22 Robert S. Cronk to Kenneth W. & Shaundra E. Race, property at Polikoff Rd., \$62,000.
- 25 Leo J. Motyka to Pauline L. & Mark C. Schiegel, property at Blair Lane, transfer.
- 25 Maureen C. Seward to Trevor O. & Melanie S. Williamson, property at 306 Berkshire School Rd., \$156,000.
- 25 John J. & Roxanne Jacoby to John & Roxanne Jacoby, property at 224 Boardman St., \$1.
- 28 John F. Harkness to Sean W. Harkness, property at Bull Hill Rd., transfer.
- 28 John Hoyt & Katherine Emory Stookey to Matthew & Ann Fogerty, property at West Rd., \$1.

MARCH

- 1 Bernard Buchholz to Bernard Buchholz, trustee, property at 142 Polikoff Rd., transfer.
- 4 Mara Smith to Mara Smith & Sandor Nagy, property at 184 Bunce Rd., less than \$100.
- 15 Wayne O. & Jennifer R. Wilkinson to Sean M. Scarbro & Kaitlin E. Face, property at 202 Root Lane, \$230,000.
- 16 Gertrude C. Goodchild & Harry E. Conklin to Bruce A. & Donna Goodchild, property at Hewins St., \$133,500.
- 16 Gertrude C. Goodchild & Harry E. Conklin to Gertrude C. Goodchild, interest in property at Hewins St., less than \$100.
- 16 Stephen J. Fellerman to Clair Fellerman, property at 534 South Main St., transfer.
- 17 David K. & Barbara W. Cartinelli to Wendy Bailey Hamilton, property at 1247 Barnum St., \$425,000.
- 18 Joseph S. Cowen to Angelina & Alfred Marino, property at 635 North Main St., \$265,000.
- 18 Sherry L. Roberts to George D. & Norma Jean Mason, property at 590 South Main St., \$175,000.

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 - 6 Mt. Everett High School Senior Prom, p. 10
 - 7 Sheffield Historical Society Work Bee, Dan Raymond House, 10am-12pm, p. 23
 - 8 MOTHER'S DAY
 - 9 Sheffield Town Elections, p. 1
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 - 13 Antique talk with Ed Surjan, Dewey Hall, 7:30pm, p. 23
 - 13-14 Book sale, Bushnell-Sage Library, p. 14
 - 14 Sheffield Police Dept. "Family Fun & Safety Day", Sheffield Town Park, 10am-2pm, p. 15
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- June**
- 2 Agricultural Fair, Mt. Everett Regional High School, 9am-2pm, p. 25
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 - 10 Sheffield Historical Society Annual Meeting, Dewey Hall, 7:30pm, p. 23
 - 11 Sheffield Historical Society Annual Spring Party, Location TBA, 12-3pm, p. 23
 - 14 FLAG DAY
 - 15 SHEFFIELD TIMES DEADLINE
 - 17 Kiwanis Annual Golf Tournament, Egremont Country Club, p. 25
 - 19 FATHER'S DAY
 - 19 Father's Day Pancake Breakfast, Dewey Hall, 8-11am, p. 10
 - 25 Square dance and dinner, Dewey Hall, 6:30pm, p. 10
 - 26 Little League All-Star Game, Sheffield Town Park, p. 25
 - 27 Summer Reading Camp begins, Bushnell-Sage Library, 9am-12pm daily, p. 14

ONGOING CALENDAR ITEMS

(Meetings or events that occur on a less than weekly basis are noted by number – i.e. "1st", "3rd" indicates meetings the first and third times that day occurs in the month. * indicates appointment needed.

Mondays:

- Food Assistance Program, Old Parish Church, 9-10:30am
- Board of Selectmen, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd, 4th
- Board of Health, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6-7:30pm
- Foot care clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 1st

Tuesdays:

- Children's Story Hour, Library, 10am
- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 6pm – 8pm
- Ashley Falls Historic District Commission, Town Hall, 6:30pm, 2nd
- National Alliance for the Mentally Ill Support Group, Fairview Hospital Library, 6:30pm, 4th
- Planning Board, Town Hall, 7pm, 1st, 3rd (except November)
- Industrial Development Commission, Town Hall, 7:30pm, last
- Kiwanis Club, Limey's Restaurant, 6:30pm
- Physical Fitness, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 9am
- Council on Aging, Dewey Hall/Senior Ctr., 3rd

Wednesdays:

- Building Inspector, Town Hall, 7:30am – 11am

Thursdays:

- Parent-Child Playgroup, Greenwoods Community Church, 9:30-11:30
- *Blood Pressure Clinic, Dewey Hall/Senior Center, 9am-12pm, 2nd
- Conservation Commission, Town Hall, 7pm, 2nd, 4th

Fridays:

- Farmers' Market, Old Parish Parking Lot, 4-7 (p.11)

Saturdays:

- Saturday Market, Dewey Memorial Hall, 9:30am-1pm
- Marketplace, American Legion Hall, 10am-3pm
- Contra Dancing, Sheffield Grange, Rte 7, 8:30pm, 4th

Sundays:

- Men's Group, Old Parish, 7:45am, 2nd

SENIOR CENTER CALENDAR

- May 2 Foot Care Clinic, 9am
- May 4 Trip to Mashantucket Pequot Museum, 9am
- May 5 Hearing Clinic (appt. necessary), 11am
- May 26 Chicken BBQ, \$5, 6:15pm
- June 15 Tri-town picnic, Town Park, 12pm

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